

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as detailed herein:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an FT-IR (Fourier Transform Infrared) microscope in association with a scanning spectrometer which is operated in continuous scan mode, wherein incremental movement of the moveable stage of the microscope is synchronized with the scans of the scanning spectrometer, and movement of the microscope stage is initiated in response to a signal generated by the scanning spectrometer at the completion of a data collection step of a spectrometer scan.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an FT-IR microscope according to claim 1 wherein the microscope is a single detector or small detector array type microscope.
5. (Currently Amended) A system for carrying out FT-IR spectroscopy using a scanning spectrometer operated in continuous-scan mode and an FT-IR microscope with a moveable stage wherein the system is so arranged that incremental movement of the moveable stage is synchronized with the scan of the scanning spectrometer, and movement of the microscope stage is initiated in response to a signal generated by the scanning spectrometer at the completion of a data collection step of a spectrometer scan.
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5 wherein the microscope is a single detector or a small detector array type microscope.
9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5 including a scan controller for controlling the scanning of the spectrometer, a data collector for producing signals from the detector or detectors of the microscope, a stage controller for controlling movement of the microscope stage and a master controller for controlling the functions of the scan controller, data collector and stage controller.
10. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the end of a scan is signaled to the stage controller by a signal generated by the scan controller and transmitted to the stage controller via the data collector.